

June 26, 2006

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

An image that has become a defining symbol for the homeless problem in Los Angeles County is of the mentally ill woman who was released to Skid Row from the Kaiser facility in Bellflower last year. Like many, I was appalled by that image; yet I believe that the cause of the situation arose from the many complications involved in assisting a hospital patient at risk of homelessness.

Add to that the severe shortage of shelter beds, transitional housing and other kinds of supports needed for this population, it is not surprising to me that we have outcomes for homeless patients that are clearly unacceptable.

I believe that this is something we all must take responsibility for. We must do more to ensure that vulnerable patients are not released from the hospital until they are screened for any additional services or treatment and transitioned into an appropriate

-M O R E-

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

setting, while taking into account patient consent concerns and other logistics.

We have a genuine opportunity to meaningfully address this tragic issue. The Housing Authority of Los Angeles County and the Department of Health Services have been working closely with the Los Angeles City Housing Authority to develop the Access Housing for Health pilot project. This program would provide Section 8 housing vouchers to any homeless person discharged from the hospital that meets certain criteria. Funding is required to appropriately shelter these individuals upon their release from the hospital for an extended period of time, while the Section 8 process takes place, and they can transition to permanent housing.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Community Development Commission and the Department of Health Services report back with a plan and identify necessary costs within 7 days to fully implement the Access to Housing for Health (AHH) Pilot Project.

I, FURTHER MOVE, that the Chief Administrative Officer set aside 1.5 Million for the AHH Pilot Project from the \$80 million designation for homeless programs.

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